

**PROPOSED**

Application No. 10/075,451

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A container and lid combination, comprising:

a container including:

a bottom surface,

an opening,

a top edge surrounding the opening, and

a first attachment mechanism comprising a plurality of first attachment projections provided on the bottom surface, the first attachment projections having respective first engagement surfaces that each form an acute angle with respect to the bottom surface, each first attachment projection comprising a proximal end attached to the bottom surface, a distal end opposite the proximal end, a convex outer side surface, a concave inner side surface opposite the outer side surface, and two end surfaces connecting the inner side surface and the outer side surface, the end surfaces of each first attachment projection being spaced from the end surfaces of adjacent first attachment projections; and

a lid engageable with the top edge of the container to cover the opening, the lid including:

an inside surface that faces an interior of the container when the lid is engaged with the top edge of the container,

an outside surface that faces away from the interior of the container when the lid is engaged with the top edge of the container,

a second attachment mechanism provided on the inside surface and engageable with the first attachment mechanism, the lid being attachable to the bottom

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surface of the container in a nested state via engagement of the first and second attachment mechanisms, and

a third attachment mechanism provided on the outside surface and engageable with the first attachment mechanism, the third attachment mechanism comprising an inner set of inner attachment projections and an outer set of outer attachment projections, the inner attachment projections and the outer attachment projections having respective third engagement surfaces that each form an acute angle with respect to the outside surface, each third attachment projection comprising a proximal end attached to the outside surface, a distal end opposite the proximal end, a convex outer side surface, a concave inner side surface opposite the outer side surface, and two end surfaces connecting the inner side surface and the outer side surface, the end surfaces of each third attachment projection being spaced from the end surfaces of adjacent third attachment projections,

wherein the lid is attachable to the bottom surface of the container in an inverted state via engagement of the first and ~~second~~ third attachment mechanisms ~~such that the first engagement surfaces engage at least some of the third engagement surfaces.~~

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The container and lid combination according to claim 1, wherein the second attachment mechanism comprises a plurality of second attachment projections protruding from the inside surface of the lid, the second attachment projections having respective second engagement surfaces that each form an acute angle with respect to the inside surface and engage with the first engagement surfaces.

6-7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) The container and lid combination according to claim 1, wherein at least one portion of the container is transparent.

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9. (Currently Amended) The container and lid combination according to claim 1, wherein, as seen in plan view, an outermost circumference of the lid is free of any protrusions.

10. (Original) The container and lid combination according to claim 9, wherein the container further comprises a ridge provided around an outer periphery of the container near a top edge of the container, one or more notches being provided in the ridge to facilitate a user's access to the lid when the user removes the lid from the container.

11. (Currently Amended) A nesting container and lid set comprising:  
a plurality of containers, the containers being of different sizes and thereby nestable together, at least two of the containers each including:

a bottom surface,  
an opening,  
a top edge surrounding the opening, and  
a ~~container-side~~ container attachment mechanism provided on the bottom surface, the ~~container-side~~ container attachment mechanism comprising a plurality of first attachment projections provided on the bottom surface, the first attachment projections having respective first engagement surfaces that each form an acute angle with respect to the bottom surface, each first attachment projection comprising a proximal end attached to the bottom surface, a distal end opposite the proximal end, a convex outer side surface, a concave inner side surface opposite the outer side surface, and two end surfaces connecting the inner side surface and the outer side surface, the end surfaces of each first attachment projection being spaced from the end surfaces of adjacent first attachment projections; and  
a corresponding plurality of lids engageable with the top edges of the containers to cover the openings, at least one of the lids including:

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an inside surface that faces an interior of the container when the lid is engaged with the top edge of the container,

an outside surface that faces away from the interior of the container when the lid is engaged with the top edge of the container, and

an outside ~~surface-side-surface~~ attachment mechanism provided on the outside surface and engageable with the ~~container-side~~container attachment mechanism of the at least one of the containers, the outside ~~surface-side-surface~~ attachment mechanism comprising an inner set ~~more-of~~ attachment projections and an outer set of attachment projections, the inner attachment projections and the outer attachment projections having respective ~~third-second~~ engagement surfaces that each form an acute angle with respect to the outside surface, each ~~third-second~~ attachment projection comprising a proximal end attached to the outside surface, a distal end opposite the proximal end, a convex outer side surface, a concave inner side surface opposite the outer side surface, and two end surfaces connecting the inner side surface and the outer side surface, the end surfaces of each ~~third-second~~ attachment projection being spaced from the end surfaces of adjacent ~~third-second~~ attachment projections;

wherein the bottom surface of a smaller one of the at least two of the containers is attachable to the outside surface of the at least one of the lids via engagement of the ~~the first~~ engagement surfaces with the ~~third-second~~ engagement surfaces of the inner set of attachment projections, but is not attachable via engagement of the first engagement surfaces and the ~~third-second~~ engagement surfaces of the outer set of attachment projections, and a larger one of the at least two of the containers is attachable to the outside surface of the at least one of the lids via engagement of the first engagement surfaces with the ~~third-second~~ engagement surfaces of the outer set of attachment projections.

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12. (Currently Amended) The nesting container and lid set according to claim 11, wherein at least one of the lids further comprises an inside ~~surface-side~~surface attachment mechanism provided on the inside surface and engageable with the ~~container-side~~container attachment mechanism, the lid being attachable to the bottom surface of the corresponding container in a nested state via engagement of the ~~container-side~~container and inside ~~surface-side~~surface attachment mechanisms.

13. (Currently Amended) The nesting container and lid set according to claim 11, wherein, in ~~the~~a nested state of the containers and lids, each lid that is nestable inside a larger one of the containers is attached to the bottom surface of the corresponding container, <sup>its</sup> ~~with a lid corresponding to a largest one of the containers optionally being engaged with the top edge of the largest one of the containers.~~

14-16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The nesting container and lid set according to claim 11, wherein at least one portion of each container is transparent.

18. (Currently Amended) The nesting container and lid set according to claim 11, wherein, as seen in plan view, an outermost circumference of each lid that is nestable inside a larger one of the containers is free of any protrusions, ~~with the outer circumference of a largest one of the lids optionally not being free of any protrusions.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The nesting container and lid set according to claim 18, wherein each container that is nestable inside a larger one of the containers further comprises a ridge provided around an outer periphery of the container near a top edge of the container, one or more notches being provided in the ridge to facilitate a user's access to the lid when the user removes the lid from the container, ~~with a largest one of the containers optionally not including the ridge and/or the one or more notches.~~

20. (Canceled)

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21. (Currently Amended) The nesting container and lid set according to claim 12, wherein the inside ~~surface-side~~surface attachment mechanism comprises a plurality of ~~second~~ third attachment projections protruding from the inside surface of the lid, the ~~second~~third attachment projections having respective ~~second~~third engagement surfaces that each form an acute angle with respect to the inside surface and engage with the first engagement surfaces.

22. (Currently Amended) A container and lid combination, comprising:  
a container including:  
a bottom surface,  
an opening,  
a top edge surrounding the opening, and  
a first attachment mechanism comprising a plurality of first attachment projections provided on the bottom surface, the first attachment projections having respective first engagement surfaces that each form an acute angle with respect to the bottom surface;  
and

a lid engageable with the top edge of the container to cover the opening, the lid including:

an inside surface that faces an interior of the container when the lid is engaged with the top edge of the container,

an outside surface that faces away from the interior of the container when the lid is engaged with the top edge of the container,

a second attachment mechanism provided on the inside surface and engageable with the first attachment mechanism, the lid being attachable to the bottom surface of the container in a nested state via engagement of the first and second attachment mechanisms, the second attachment mechanism comprising a plurality of second attachment projections protruding from the inside surface of the lid, the second attachment projections

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having respective second engagement surfaces that each form an acute angle with respect to the inside surface and engage with the first engagement surfaces, and

a third attachment mechanism provided on the outside surface and engageable with the first attachment mechanism, the third attachment mechanism comprising an inner set of inner attachment projections and an outer set of outer attachment projections, the inner attachment projections and the outer attachment projections having respective third engagement surfaces that each form an acute angle with respect to the outside surface,

wherein the lid is attachable to the bottom surface of the container in an inverted state via engagement of the first and ~~second~~ third attachment mechanisms ~~such that the first engagement surfaces engage at least some of the third engagement surfaces.~~

23. (Previously Presented) The container and lid combination of claim 22, wherein the attachment projections of the first and second attachment mechanisms each comprises an inner set of inner attachment projections and an outer set of outer attachment projections.